

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application as presently amended and in light of the following discussion is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-4, 6-10, 12-17 are pending in the present application. Claims 5 and 11 have been canceled, and claims 1, 6, 7, 12, 13 and 15-17 have been amended by the present amendment.

In the outstanding Office Action, claims 1-13 and 17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by Humpleman et al.; claim 14 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Humpleman et al. in view of Kanevsky et al.; and claims 15 and 16 were rejected 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Humpleman et al. in view of Kanevsky et al. and Ando et al.

Claims 1-13 and 17 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by Humpleman et al.

Amended independent claim 1 is directed to a method for displaying positions of home network appliances. The method includes generating an appliance identifier for indicating a type of each home network appliance connected to a home network, setting a position pointer for indicating a position of each home network appliance, and reading a text object corresponding to the position pointer from a text library. Further, the text library includes text objects for indicating positions of home network appliances. The method also includes combining a graphic object corresponding to the appliance identifier with the text object corresponding to the position pointer, and displaying the combined graphic and text object on a screen. Note that amended independent claim 1 includes some of the subject matter similar to that recited in dependent claim 5. Independent claims 7 and 13 include similar features in a varying scope.

These features are supported at least by Figures 5 and 7, for example. For example, Figure 5 illustrates the text library including text objects for indicating positions of home

text object corresponds to a position pointer for indicating a position of each home network appliance. Thus, a graphic object corresponding to the appliance identifier can be combined with a text object corresponding to the position pointer and displayed on a screen. Figure 7 illustrates a graphic object for an air conditioner being displayed with the text object for the boudoir, living room and bedroom. Thus, the user can easily recognize positions of the home network appliances to control (see page 16, lines 14 and 15, for example).

On the contrary, Humpleman et al. merely displays an icon of a particular device along with a manufacturer's name as shown in Figure 6. For example, Figure 6A illustrates a television 504 being displayed with the manufacturer's name 506 of the television 504. In addition, Humpleman et al. also teaches in Figure 7 a user defining the arrangement of device images 602 and logos 604 according to his or her own criteria (see paragraphs [0079] and [0104]). However, note that the graphic object 602 is not combined with a text object corresponding to a position pointer. That is, there is no text library in Humpleman et al. which includes text objects for indicating positions of the home network appliances. Rather, as shown in Figure 7, the user can merely move the devices 602 into different arrangements 610.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted independent claims 1, 7 and 13 and each of the claims depending therefrom are allowable.

In addition, it is respectfully submitted the rejections of claims 14-16 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as noted in the Office Action have also been overcome as the claims rejected therein are dependent claims and Kanevsky et al. and Ando et al. also do not teach or suggest the features recited in the corresponding independent claims.

CONCLUSION

For the foregoing reasons and in view of the above clarifying amendments, the Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw all of the objections and rejections of record, and to provide an early issuance of a Notice of Allowance.

Should there be any outstanding matters which need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact David A. Bilodeau (Registration No. 42,325) at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37.C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.14; particularly, extension of time fees.

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Respectfully submitted,

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